

JUST **FIX IT**

## Trash piles at former homeless camp gone

By Ruth McKinnie Braun  
STAFF WRITER

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**IT'S FIXED:** Piles of trash left behind at an abandoned homeless encampment in Spring Valley were cleared away over the weekend.

The work was completed by people assigned to community service after being convicted of crimes. On Saturday and yesterday, more than 60 people supervised by the Probation Department worked at the site near the Spring Valley Swap Meet. Sheriff's deputies provided added security.

As we first wrote in June, residents for years had asked the Sheriff's Department to remove about 30 squatters living in makeshift homes.

Deputies in August gave squatters written warning to move or face arrest. They were living on private property, but the owners questioned paying for the massive cleanup.

EDCO waste disposal donated large trash bins, and Allied Waste Co. waived disposal fees at the Otay Landfill. Property owners have been told to block off the area so squatters won't return.

Residents are thrilled.

"Thank you so much," said Rose Estrada, whose home looks down on the area.

**WHO GOT IT DONE:** Sheriff's Cmdr. Ed Prendergast at (858) 974-2295 or [ed.prendergast@sdsheriff.org](mailto:ed.prendergast@sdsheriff.org). Pam Elias, chief of the county's Code Enforcement Division, at (858) 495-5020 or [pam.elias@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pam.elias@sdcounty.ca.gov). Supervising Probation Officer Nels Esquibell at (619) 559-8204. County Supervisor Dianne Jacob at (619) 531-5522 or [dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov).

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THE SITE: Near Quarry Road in Spring Valley.

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